

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

OMB-01 /067 W

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R 180846Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7070

INFO AMEMBASSU TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 6133

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT PINS TW

SUBJECT: TAIWAN POLITICAL REVIEW: OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL REACTION  
TO THE SECOND ISSUE

REF: TAIPEI 5369

1. THE SECOND ISSUE OF TAIWAN POLITICAL REVIEW (TPR), NOW ON  
SALE AT TAIPEI NEWSSTANDS, COVERS A WIDE VARIETY OF SUBJECTS,  
INCLUDING ARTICLES ON "FAIR AND OPEN" ELECTIONS, FREEDOM OF THE  
PRESS, PROBLEMS OF FARMERS INCLUDIING FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS,  
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, AND THE QUESTION OF ROC GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS  
ACQUIRING FOREIGN NATIONALITIES. AMONG THIS ISSUE'S CONTRIBUTORS  
ARE KUO YU-HSIN (6753/7183/2450), THE ELDER STATESMAN OF  
TAIWANESE OPPOSITION TO THE KMT; INDEPENDENT LEGISLATIVE YUAN (LY)  
MEMBER HUANG HSIN-CHIEH (7806/0207/0094), TPR'S PUBLISHER; YANG  
CHIN-HAI (2799/6855/3189) A KAOHSIUNG COUNTY BUSINESSMAN ACTIVE  
IN LOCAL INDEPENDENT POLITICAL CIRCLES WHOSE ARTICLE APPEARS  
UNDER A PENNAME; AND HUANG HUA (7806/5478) A SELF-DESCRIBED  
"TAIWANESE INDENPENDENCE ELEMENT" COMMUTED BY THE 1975  
COMMUTATION ACT AFTER EIGHT YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

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2. IN A SEPTEMBER 16 VISIT TO KAOHSIUNG, EMBOFF WAS TOLD BY YANG CHIN-HAI THAT COPIES OF TPR ARE NOT BEING SOLD AT LOCAL BOOKSTANDS IN THAT CITY. ACCORDING TO YANG, THE GROG HAS INSTRUCTED MILITARY INSTALLATIONS AND SCHOOLS TO ENSURE THAT THE MAGAZINE IS NOT READ BY THE MILITARY OR STUDENTS. YANG ALSO SAID THAT THE KMT HAD HELD MEETINGS AT ALL LEVELS IN KAOHSIUNG INFORMING PARTY MEMBERS THAT THE MAGAZINE SHOULD NOT BE READ AND INSTRUCTING THEM TO "ADVISE"LOCAL BOOKSTALL OWNERS NOT TO SELL THE MAGAZEINE.

3. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT JIMMY YANG (YANG HSUAN-TANG 2799/6693/1016), VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EDITOR OF LIEN HO PAO, PLANS TO PUBLISH (PROBABLY WITH STRONG GROG SUPPORT) A NEW MAGAZINE ENTITLED CHINA POLITICAL REVIEW AS A REBUTTAL TO TPR.

4. BASED ON RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH INDEPENDENTS IN BOTH TAINANA AND KAOHSIUNG, IT IS CLEAR THAT TPR IS WIDELY READ AMONG NON-KMT POLITICAL ACTIVISTS AND HAS MET WITH THEIR APPROVAL. ONE TAINAN INDEPENDENT, SU NAN-CHENG (5685/0589/2052) ESTIMATED THAT THE MAGAZINE COULD NOT SURVIVE FOR LONG-- AT MOST A YEARS-- AND EVEN THEN ONLY BECAUSE OF "SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES" (I.E., THE FACT THAT TWO OF TPR'S BOARD MEMBERS -- KANG NING-HSIANG, 1660/1380/4382, AND HUANG HSIN-CHIEH -- ARE LY MEMBERS). BECAUSE HUANG'S LY SEAT IS PERMANENTS, HE DOES NOT HAVE TO STAND FOR RE-ELECTION IN THE DECEMBER ELECTIONS. KANG, ON THE OTHER HAND, MUST STAND FOR RE-ELECTION. SU OPINED THAT KANG'S DEFEAT (WHICH BOTH U AND THE EMBASSY BELIEVE UNLIKELY) WOULD BE THE DEATH KNELL FOR TPR.

5. THE EMBASSY'S INITIAL IMPRESSION OF THE SECOND ISSUE OF TPR IS THAT IT MAY BE MORE OFFENSIVE TO THE GROG THAN THE FIRST BECAUSE (A) CRITICISM OF THE GROG APPEARS TO BE DEPARTING FROM THE THEORETICAL LEVEL AND BECOMING MORE SPECIFIC AND (B) BY DRAWING FROM AN ISLAND-WIDE COSS-SECTION OF INDEPENDENTS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS, IT APPARENTLY IS ATTEMPTING TO BECOME THE VOICE OF INDEPENDENT ELEMENTS. WHILE IT APPEARS THAT THE GROG IS NOW YET WILLING TO USE DIRECT MEASURES TO SUPPRESS THE MAGAZINE, IT SEEMS TO BE BRYING HARD TO SUPPRESS IT BY INDIRECT METHODS. IF THESE METHODS ARE DETERMINED BY THE GROG NOT TO BE SUFFICIENTLY EFFECTIVE IN DAMPENING SUPPORT FOR TPR, THERE

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IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT THE GROG COULD DECIDE TO TAKE MORE DIRECT MEASURES AGAINST TPR OR ITS LEADERSHIP.

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## Message Attributes

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